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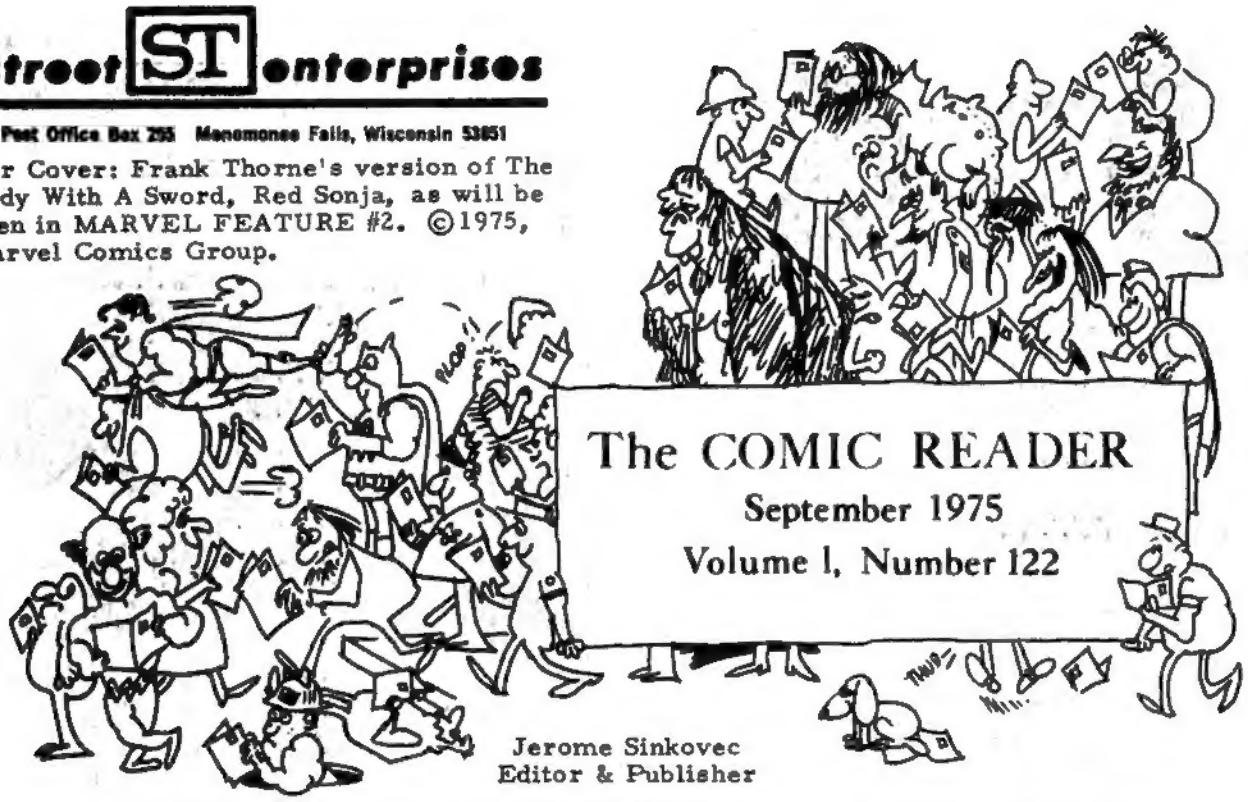
Our Cover: Frank Thorne's version of The Lady With A Sword, Red Sonja, as will be seen in MARVEL FEATURE #2. ©1975, Marvel Comics Group.



The COMIC READER

September 1975

Volume I, Number 122

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Super News

Latest plans call for the SUPERMAN-SPIDER-MAN team-up book to be 100 pages including covers. The story will concern Spidey and Superman's alliance to battle the Lex Luthor- Doctor Octopus team. Ross Andru is pencilling and Gerry Conway is scripting.

Marvel News

HOWARD THE DUCK and BLACK GOLIATH's first issues are slated for October release.

Bill Mantlo and Keith Giffen are doing a one-shot for MARVEL PREMIERE entitled WOOD GOD. "It's the most different type of super-hero we've ever done," says Marv Wolfman.

Jack Kirby is taking over the writing and artwork on CAPTAIN AMERICA with #193, so don't expect any of those previously announced events to take place there. D. Bruce Berry will ink at least one issue.

Frank Giacoia will be doing the inking on Kirby's 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY book.

DOC SAVAGE is now a quarterly.

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Len Wein is planning a new series that will either start in its own book or in MARVEL PREMIERE. The art will be by Bob Brown and Craig Russell.

Steve Englehart is taking over the writing of SKULL THE SLAYER with #4.

Rich Buckler is taking over as artist on POWERMAN.

Keith Giffen has taken over the art on the KILLRAVEN strip in AMAZING ADVENTURES over layouts by Craig Russell.

Coming soon in CAPTAIN MARVEL will be an outer space western.

The FF will battle The Hulk in an upcoming two-parter in FANTASTIC FOUR drawn by George Perez.

Bill Mantlo will follow Bruce Jones as scriptor of RED SONJA in MARVEL FEATURE.

Roy Thomas has taken over the writing of MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE.

Russ Heath is doing a fill-in issue of SON OF SATAN.

Watch carefully and you'll notice that both Thor and Doctor Strange will be destroying the world within months of each other.

Herb Trimpe will probably take over as artist of SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP.

Steve Gerber is no longer editing CRAZY. Paul Laikin, former editor of SICK for Pyramid, will take over with #15.

THE DEFENDERS #31 will feature an unusual series featuring The Head Men.

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The first issue of HOWARD THE DUCK will feature a nineteen page story: 'HOWARD THE BARBARIAN, featuring Spider-Man. An upcoming story will feature Howard as MASTER OF QUACK-FU.

Jim Galton has been named President and Chief Operating Officer of Magazine Management and Marvel Comics according to CMAA Newsletter.

Coming up in THOR will be the return of The Firelord and revolution in Asgard.

Plans for THE HULK: #195-96 features The Abomination; #197-98 has The Man-Thing and The Glob; #199-stars Doc Samson; #200 features The Resurrection of Glen Talbot; #201-2, Hulk The Barbarian; and #203 has Jarella.

Steve Englehart is the writer for THE PRISONER series.

The 1976 Marvel Comicon will be held March 19 - 21 at the Hotel Commodore in New York.

Angela Bowie, last seen dressing up as a certain Amazon princess for an audition for the role of same on television, has recently appeared in NEWSWEEK doing the same thing for a still-sketchy series based on THE BLACK WIDOW. Ms. Bowie would appear as "an unangelic" version of Natasha in this proposed TV series. In the photo above, the guy standing behind her is actor friend Ben Carruthers, who is supposed to be dressed as Daredevil (in case you couldn't tell). She was heard to give a sample of some of the

Terry O'Neill—Proist Services

Bowie and Carruthers: Unangelic role

kind of dialogue that could be expected; 'You would do well to watch your tone. The Black Widow does not take orders from anyone." We won't hold our breath waiting for this to be bought by the networks.

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National News

ALL STAR COMICS #58, BLITZKRIEG #1, THE WARLORD #1 and BLACKHAWK #244 are all slated to appear during October.

Ric Estrada will be pencilling the KARATE KID book. In a move that is totally consistent with present-future continuity, Karate Kid will remain in the Legion even though his own book will feature him in the 20th century.

SUPER-TEAM FAMILY will remain giant-sized and not go to 25¢ size with #2.

The METAL MEN story written by Steve Gerber will be drawn by Walt Simonson.

GREEN LANTERN will be getting another sales try-out in DC SPECIAL #20. Denny O'Neil says that he plans to make the GREEN LANTERN-GREEN ARROW issue of FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL a space-opera and not necessarily relevant.

Speaking of FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL, Gerry Conway's plot for THE NEW GODS concerns Orion's guerilla mission to assassinate Darkseid.

Team fans will be glad to hear that there is talk of reviving both the TEEN TITANS and THE DOOM PATROL for FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL.

Look for the startling revival of a long-dead character in WONDER WOMAN. Jose Delbo is doing two issues of WONDER WOMAN and may stay on as permanent artist.

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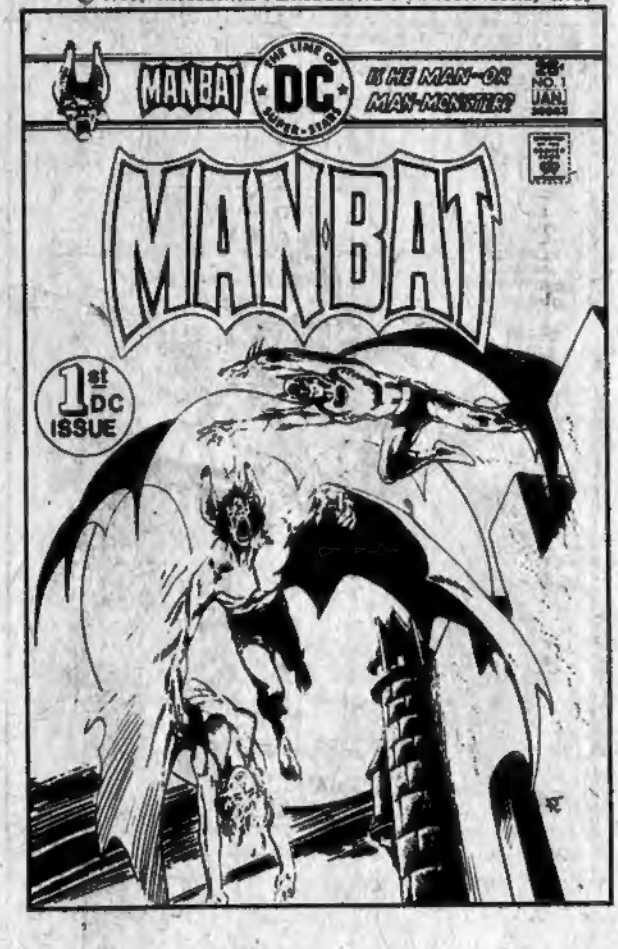

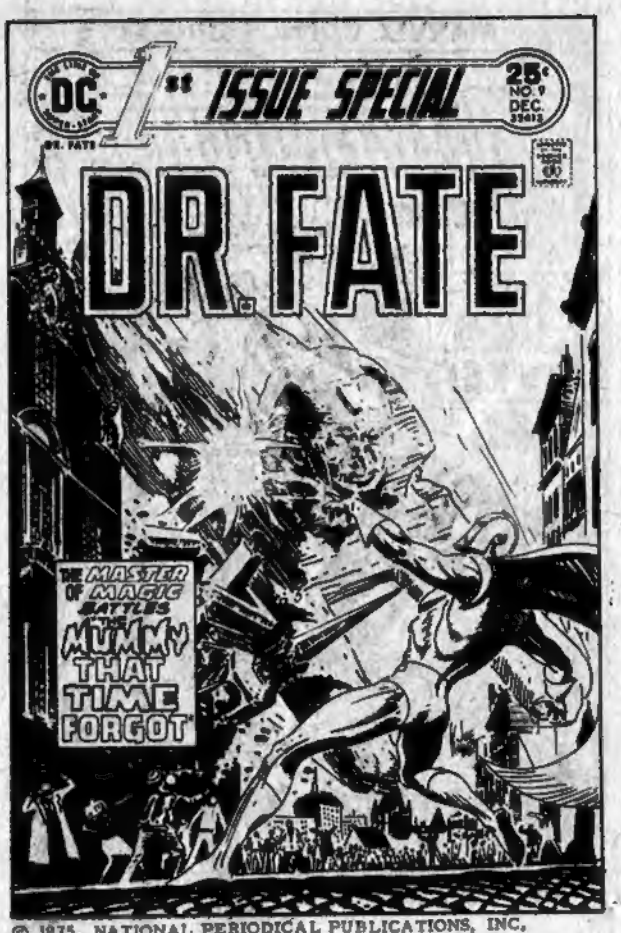

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An upcoming SUPERMAN story ties together the alternate futures of the Legion of Super-Heroes-Future Superman, The Green Lantern Corps and Kamandi. It's by Elliot Maggin.

Joe Kubert has done a five page ENEMY ACE story for the pages of STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES #200.

The Joker is getting a new hide-out. The Mini-Ha-Hacienda is located beneath the Arkham criminal asylum.

Cary Bates has written a back-up story for SUPERBOY starring ex-Legionnaires Bouncing Boy and Duo Damsel. Jim Shooter has written a LEGION story which prominently features the Legion's cruiser, and there is a full-page disgram of the inside of it by Mike Grell.

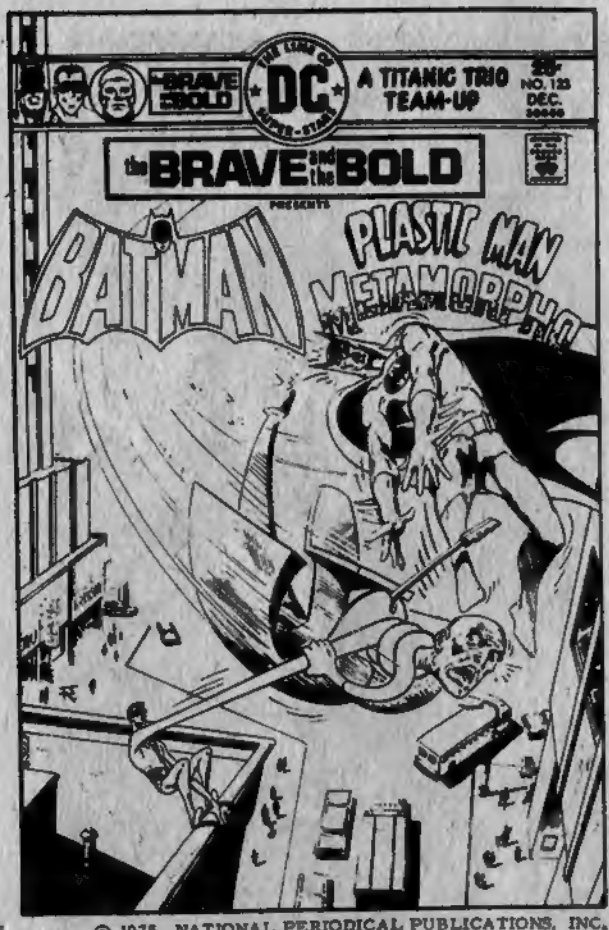
Ric Estrada and George Evans are doing a fill-in issue of OUR FIGHTING FORCES.

David Reed is doing a four part serial for BATMAN entitled "The Underworld Olympics."

THE FLASH has a three-parter coming up concerning the "Terrible Secret Of Stacy Cromwell." (Even her best friends won't tell her!)

Dick Giordano is illustrating a twelve page BATMAN tale by Denny O'Neil.

Gerry Conway has done a SUPERMAN story -- "Superman, You're Not Clark Kent And I Can Prove It!"



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There are costume changes due for Colossal Boy and Cosmic Boy.

Chic Stone may be pencilling the first non-Kirby issue of KAMANDI. Mike Royer will ink.

The Red Tornado is not long for this world.

1976 will see the first National Comics Convention. Called SUPERMAN'S BIRTHDAY CONVENTION, it will take place on February 27 - 29 of next year. The 29th is Superman's birthday (also Captain Marvel's). It'll be held in New York at The Hotel Commodore.

Engagement Department: DC proofreader Tony Tollin is getting married to Adrienne Roy, whom he met at the Famous Monsters Con. Congratulations and best wishes all around!

Ilya Salkind, producer of the SUPERMAN '76 film, has announced a budget of $30 million dollars for the film. He didn't say whether that would go for salaries, special effects or promotion.

Warner Paperbacks, in association with Crown Publishers, is producing a hardcover, SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER-HEROES featuring the reprinted origins of BATMAN (old and new), SUPERMAN (old and new), GREEN LANTERN (old and new), WONDER WOMAN (old and new), THE FLASH (old and new), HAWKMAN (old and new), GREEN ARROW (old and new), THE ATOM (old and new), CAPTAIN MARVEL, and PLASTIC MAN. Commentary and historical background will be by Denny O'Neil.

National Lampoon

NatLamp is putting together "The Art Poster Book" with 26 suitable-for-framing posters and art parodies. To coincide with this, they are putting together an art show featuring the best of the last six years of art from the NATIONAL LAMPOON that will tour college campuses.

THE YOUNG MAN'S BATHROOM COMPANION will be an anthology of "all the things from the magazine you would want to take into the bathroom with you." The book is scheduled for October.

THE NATIONAL LAMPOON SONG BOOK is also scheduled for October. It will feature music and lyrics to the songs featured in LEMMINGS, their various records and the radio show.

Also for October is GOODBYE POP, an LP of all-new material about the life and death of "pop music."

NATIONAL LAMPOON (67, October). This is the "Work" issue and the tentative contents are "Shirking" by John Weidman, a story about Indians on high steel by Brian McConnachie, a Union News letter, How To Make A Successful Sale by Gerry Sussman, "Ferdinand The Bulldozer" by Tony Hendra and Ric Meyerowitz, "Some Men Like To Work" by John Glashan, a Workman's Compensation Pamphlet by Ted Mann, and "Equal Pay For Equal Work" by Shary Flenniken. (9/19)

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Charlton News

Charlton will publish two new books based upon popular television shows and, like SPACE: 1999, there will be black and white versions also. SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN will be done by Joe Staton and EMERGENCY by John Byrne (for the first issue at least). Byrne will also take over the SPACE: 1999 book with the third issue.

SICK MAGAZINE will begin new material after the first of next year and will be edited by George Wildman.

Coming Comics

JUST MARRIED (108, December). (9/2)

SARGE SNORKEL (11, December). (9/2)

LOVE DIARY (96, December). (9/4)

I LOVE YOU (115, December). (9/4)

HOUSE OF YANG (3, December). Two female killers are experts at karate and hunt for Sun-Yang in "Hunters Of The Sun" by Joe Gill and Sanho Kim. Cover is by Kim. (9/9)

BILLY THE KID (115, December). Featured stories are "The Train Stops At Paradise" by Joe Gill and Warren Sattler and "Killer's Return" by Gill and Fred Himes. Cover is by Sattler. (9/9)

THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES (54, December). Stories in this issue are "The Room Of Truth," "The Housewarming," and

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"The Last Whale" by Joe Gill and Steve Ditko. Cover is by John Byrne. (9/11)

GHOSTLY HAUNTS (47, December). Featured in this issue are "The Trapper," "The Wrecker" and "Final Treatment." Cover is by Steve Ditko. (9/11)

BEYOND THE GRAVE (3, December). In this issue, a wizard projects his mind into that of a cat but has a problem coming back in "Incident At Soulbridge" by Tom Tuna; ghosts of dead French soldiers come back for revenge on Nazis in "City Of The Dear" by Joe Gill, Charles Nicholas and Vince Alascia; and a young girl with the power to create monsters tries it against her greedy aunt in "All In The Mind" by Gill and Steve Ditko. Cover is by Ditko. (9/11)

CREEPY THINGS (3, December). Stories included are: "Where Do They Flee?," "One Last Kiss," "The Specialist," and a tale of little green swamp people who are harmless until they're disturbed in "The Grass Is Always Greener" by Mike Vosburg. Cover is by Tom Sutton. (9/11)

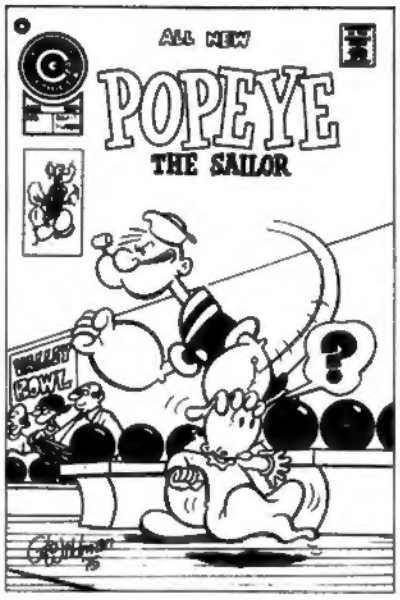
SCOOBY DOO (5, December). Cover is by Bill Williams. (9/16)

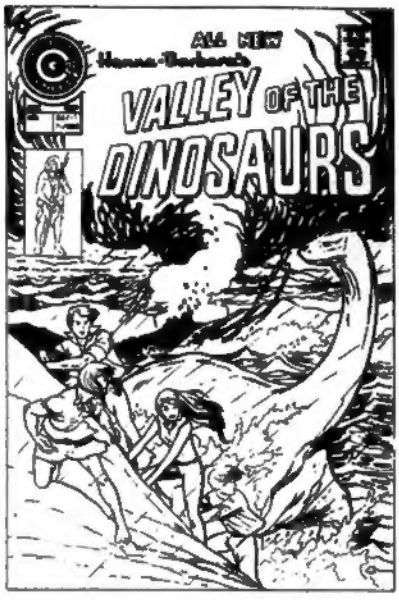
VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS (5, December). Art, story and cover by Fred Himes. (9/16)

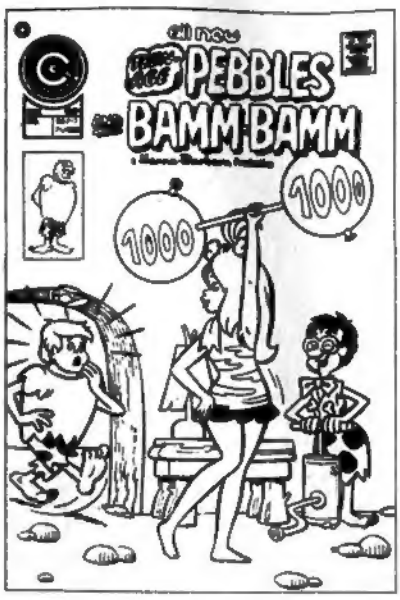
BARNEY AND BETTY (17, December). (9/18)

PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM (30, December). Cover is by Frank Roberge. (9/18)

THE PHANTOM (68, December). The mysterious Madame Kahn leads her beast-men







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toward conquest of all the tribes of Africa in "The Beasts Of Madame Kahn" by Nick Cuti and Don Newton. Cover is by Newton. (9/23)

POPEYE (132, December). Art, story and cover are by George Wildman. (9/23)

MONSTERS HUNTERS (3, December). A dicatator takes over an island of intelligent apes in "The Dictator" by Joe Gill and Nieto; believing in vampires is essential when hunting a vampirelike killer in "A Belief In Vampires" by Tom Tuna and Wayne Howard; a member of the Wakely family is set to destroy the inhuman monster that's haunted his family for years in "The Wakely Monster" by Nick Cuti and Tom Sutton. Cover is by Tom Sutton. (9/25)

SCARY TALES (3, December). A knight battles all sorts of demons to rescue a fair maiden but the prize turns out to be quite a surprise in "Distress" by Mike Zeck with script by former TCR editor Paul Kupperberg; plus "Satan Weeps" by Joe Gill and Steve Ditko, "Vengeance Of The Canoes" by Joe Molloy and Ditko and "The Card Of Death." Cover is by Tom Sutton. (9/25)

YOGI BEAR (29, December). Art and cover are by Ray Dirgo. (9/25)

FOR LOVERS ONLY (82, December). Cover is by Cappella. (9/25)

KORG: 70, 000 B.C. (4, December). Art, story and cover are by Pat Boyette. (9/30)

HONG KONG PHOOEY (4, December). Art and cover are by Paul Fung, Jr. (9/30)

TEEN CONFESSIONS (92, December). Cover is by Frank Bolle. (9/30)

TIME FOR LOVE (45, December). Cover is by Cappella. (9/30)

ARCHIE
Archie at RIVERDALE HIGH
CRASH!
ARCHIE FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH A DEADLY TIGER... AS HE INVESTIGATES THE MYSTERY OF... THE SINISTER SLEEP

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Archie

COMING COMICS (all dated November): ARCHIE'S PALS 'N' GALS #99, ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK #214, BETTY AND VERONICA #239, PEP COMICS #307, LAUGH COMICS #296, LIFE WITH ARCHIE #163, JUGHEAD #246, LITTLE ARCHIE #100, JUGHEAD WITH ARCHIE DIGEST #11, MADHOUSE #100, ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE HIGH #30.

Gold Key News

Beginning in 1976, all Gold-Key digest size magazines will be published as Whitman books and they will handle the distribution. This will probably mean that the digests will be turning up in places they haven't been before.

BIG LITTLE BOOK collectors should note that September will see the release of BATMAN in THE CHEETAH CAPER (re-issue), POPEYE in DANGER AHOY (re-issue), MICKEY MOUSE in ADVENTURE IN DISNEYLAND (new), LASSIE in OLD ONE-EYE (new), BUGS BUNNY in LAST CRUSADER (new) and DONALD DUCK in LOST JUNGLE CITY (new). Six of the previously soft covered BLB's will also be reissued.

November will also see the issuance of six $1.75 Whitman fiction reprints featuring DOC SAVAGE. They are MAN OF BRONZE, SECRET IN THE SKY, DEATH IN SILVER, QUEST OF QUI, THE SARGASSO OGRE and THE GHOST LEGION (formerly THE SPOOK LEGION).

Coming Comics

Walt Disney's CHIP 'N' DALE (36, November). Reprint material. (9/4)

GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES (27, November). New material. (9/4)

Walt Disney's DAISY AND DONALD (13, November). New material. (9/23) (9/4)

Walt Disney's SCAMP (26, November). Reprint material. (9/4)

TUROK, SON OF STONE (100, November). New material by Paul Newman and Alberto Gioletti. (9/4)

Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK (167, November). New material. (9/11)

WOODY WOODPECKER (147, November). New material. (9/11)

Walt Disney's HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE (35, November). Reprint material. (9/11)

LITTLE LULU (229, November). New material. (9/11)

TRAGG AND THE SKY GODS (3, December). New material by Don Glut and Jesse Santos. (9/11)

Walt Disney's SUPER GOOF (36, December). New material. (9/11)

GOLDEN COMICS DIGEST (47, November). 3 pages of new material, the rest is reprint. (9/16)

THE PINK PANTHER (30, November). New material by Warren Tufts. (9/18)

STAR TREK (35, November). New material. (9/18)

PORKY PIG (64, December). New material. (9/18)

MIGHTY SAMSON (30, December). New material by Jose Delbo. (9/18)

LITTLE MONSTERS (31, December). New material. (9/18)

UNDERDOG (4, December). New material. (9/18)

THE LONE RANGER (23, December). New material. (9/18)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (51, November). New material. (9/25)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES (422, November). (9/25)

JUNGLE TWINS (17, November). New material by Gaylord DuBois and Paul Norris. (9/25)

BUGS BUNNY (168, November). New material. (9/25)

THE TWILIGHT ZONE (67, November). New material. (9/25)

Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE (160, November). New material. (9/25)

NEW TERRYTOONS (35, November). New material. (9/25)

WACKY WITCH (21, December). New material, last issue. (9/25)

KK GIVEAWAY - PINK PANTHER (409).
KK GIVEAWAY - WACKY WITCH (410).

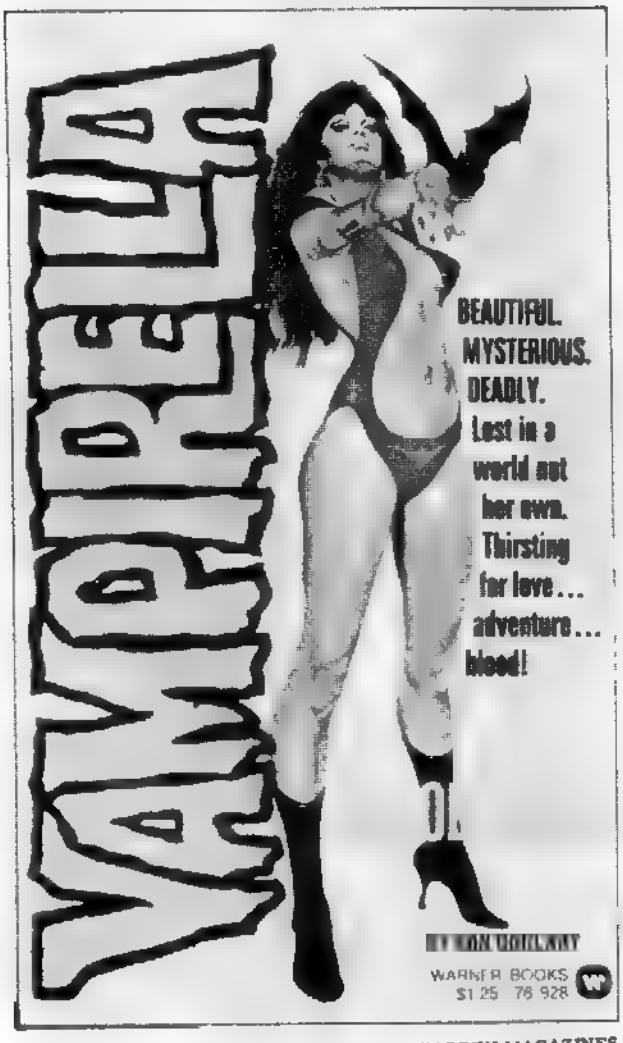
Harvey

On Sale September 4: DEVIL KIDS #73, WENDY #91, RICHIE RICH SUCCESS STORIES #65, RICHIE RICH PROFITS #8, LITTLE AUDREY #119. (all December)
On Sale September 11: RICHIE RICH BANK BOOKS #20, RICHIE RICH AND CASPER #9, SAD SACK AND SARGE #116, DOT OLKA #162, CASPER'S STRANGE GHOST STORIES #7 (all December)
On Sale September 18: RICHIE RICH JACKPOTS #20, RICHIE RICH DIAMONDS #65, RICHIE RICH BILLIONS #7 (all December), CASPER #182, SAD SACK TODAY #61 (both January).
On Sale September 25: SPOOKY #148, HOT STUFF #132, RICHIE RICH #138, RICHIE RICH MONEY WORLD #21, RICHIE RICH FORTUNES #26 (all January).
On Sale October 2: RICHIE RICH MILLIONS #75, HARVEY COLLECTORS COMICS #3, SAD SACK #248, LITTLE LOTTA #119, RICHIE RICH CASH #9, (all January).

Et Al

A vote for the inclusion of Fawcett Comics in our monthly listings from John Fishel brings the following information: Fawcett publishes twenty-six comics per year. DENNIS THE MENACE is bi-monthly, DENNIS THE MENACE BONUS MAGAZINE is monthly with some reprint issues, DENNIS THE MENACE AND HIS FRIENDS is quarterly and reprints, and DENNIS THE MENACE POCKET FULL OF FUN is a digest, quarterly and is reprint. He also mentions that Archie subscribers are given the chance to resubscribe at a bargain rate of seven for $1.25, which beats our claim that Charlton had the best bargain.

Warren



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Warren has packaged THE SPIRIT SPECIAL featuring reprints of ten of the color stories (the two from EERIE and eight others). It will be available only by mail through Warren.

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW is a comic magazine being published in almost every country but the United States. Bill DuBay edits the book but it is not a Warren Magazine. DuBay is searching for writers to work for the magazine. He wants stories that are realistic but have an element of fantasy in them. Maximum length should be eight pages. Send submissions to: W. B. DuBay, c/o Warren Publishing, 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, NY 10016.

VAMPIRELLA is getting heavy promotion this month. The first of the Warner Paperback Library VAMPI novels, "Bloodstalk" by Ron Goulart, is being released in November amid a lot of hoopla. The promo people have also sent us the promo for the VAMPI movie to be released in '76 by Hammer Films.

VAMPIRELLA (47, November). Vampi discovers an underground city in NY in "Ambergis, Tonto and Kato Too" by Bill DuBay and Zesar. The untitled first episode of the TALES OF DARCULA series is about a last effort to find blood for Dracula and is by DuBay and Leo Summers. "The Rose Of The Mojave" is a tale of the old west by DuBay and Luis Garcia. Monks use an abbey for illicit purposes in "Children Of Wrath" by Gerry Boudreau and Ramon Torrents. A hero goes out for the legendary cockatrice in "Gamal And The Cockatrice" by Bruce Bezaire and Auraleon. Cover is by Enrich, inside front cover by Gonzalez. (9/25)

CREEPY (75, November). The future: a place where all people must conform -- but there are those who don't want to in "The Escape Chronicle" by Budd Lewis and Jose Ortiz. "Thrill Kill" by Jim Stenstrum and Neal Adams is about a sniper with a reason for killing. The people behind the overthrow of a government in South America are spotlighted in "Death Expression" by Stenstrum and John Severin. "Snow," by Bruce Bezaire and Wally Wood, is about the last people on earth and what they eat. "The Phantom Of Pleasure Island" is about a phantom on Pleasure Island and is by Gerry Boudreau and Alex Toth. Cover is by Sanjulian, inside front cover by Berni Wrightson. (9/23)

EERIE (70, November). Coffin finds his death and is no longer in "Death Walk, Half Walk" by Budd Lewis and Jose Ortiz. The Exterminator returns to life in "Pray For The Hunter" by Lewis and Paul Neary. "The Cradle To The Grave" features The Immortals -- a group of people in an overpopulated time and how they handle it -- and is by Gerry Boudreau and Leo Sanchez. El Cid meets his final foe in "Crooked Mouth" by Lewis and Gonzalo Mayo, plus "The Invaders" is by Bill DuBay and Esteban Maroto. Cover by Ken Kelley, inside front cover by Berni Wrightson. (9/25)

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND (121, November). (9/23)

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Obituaries

Richard Small, well-known fan, APA contributor and indexer, supporter of fan projects and friend of many, died of cancer on June 16 in Tennessee at 25 years old. Rich knew he was dying and his last APA contribs gave a running account of his battle. A lot of people will miss the great Rich.

According to an article that we've seen only in Don and Maggie Thompson's BEAUTIFUL BALLOONS column, Crockett Johnson, creator and artist-writer for BARNABY in the early forties and children's book illustrator, died July 11 at age 68. It is perplexing why this obit didn't make any of our local papers or the national news magazines.

VAUGHN BODE 1941 - 1975

The Cheech Wizard has ascended to the astral regions. Vaughn Bode was found dead in his room at his brother's house in Oakland, California, on Friday, July 18, 1975. Vince Bode returned home, found Vaughn's door locked, got no answer, and broke in to find that the cartoonist had been strangled to death by a device he used during meditation. A leather cord was supposed to pull tightly around the throat up to a point and then release. Bode had used the mechanism four times previously. The fifth time some of the cloth straps caught and he was killed. A small funeral service was held at the Bode home on Tuesday, July 22, 1975. Present were a few close friends and the immediate family. On top of the closed coffin was a small statue of Cheech Wizard. Vaughn was 34 on the day of his funeral.

Bode attended Syracuse University in the mid-sixties, graduating with a BFA. While there, he roomed with Larry Todd. Leaving college, he moved to Woodstock, while Todd came to San Francisco. Bode was a frequent contributor to fanzines and a prolific artist at all times. He edited the first two issues of the East Village OTHER's tabloid GOTHIC BLIMP WORKS where he gave artists like Trina Robbins their first opportunity to appear in print. At the same time, he contributed to CAVALIER (DEADBONE EROTICA, collected by Bantam in '71). His SUN POT was serialized in DUDE in '73. That year he sold seven books to the Print Mint in Berkeley, six JUNKWAFFELs and THE MAN (drawn in 1966). Four of the JUNKWAFFELs have been published to date. Vaughn's work began to move in several directions after beginning his Cartoon Concerts in which he characterized his characters with his unique sound effects and voices, doing a puzzle, t-shirts, a hardcover DEADBONE collection and was discussing an animated cartoon.

Bode saw himself as a cartoon messiah and it may or may not be ironic that his death took place when he was 33, the traditional age when Christ was crucified. CG

(Excerpted from COMIX WORLD, © Clay Geerdes)

Media News

After eighteen years, Hanna-Barbera is reviving TOM AND JERRY, their seven-time Academy Award-winning cartoon while at MGM, beginning with 48 seven minute episodes for the fall season's NEW ADVENTURES OF TOM AND JERRY... NBC is considering reviving its former hit TV series LAUGH-IN for the '76 season, but without Rowan and Martin... The SUPERMAN film is now entitled SUPERMAN '76 for the bi-centennial. It is supposed to be an "international spoof." Doesn't sound too promising... Universal Pictures has signed Nicol Williamson, Alan Arkin, Vanessa Redgrave, Lord Laurence Olivier and Robert Duvall for "The Seven-Percent Solution," which starts shooting in Europe in October for producer-director Herbert Ross. Williamson will play Sherlock Holmes, Olivier will play Moriarty and Arkin will play Sigmund Freud. Redgrave is an abducted soprano and the script is based upon Nicholas Meyer's novel purporting to be an undiscovered Holmes adventure. Meyer is doing the screenplay... SINDBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER is a film from Columbia starring Patrick Wayne, Jane Seymour and Taryn Power (no mention is made of whether or not Harryhausen is involved)... Ralph Bakshi is working on another of his animated feature films: WAR WIZARDS... Paramount's STAR TREK series is currently licensed to 140 stations around the country including 49 of the top 50 markets... SPACE: 1999 has been sold to 126 markets... New York psychologists Mildred and Bernard Berkowitz claim the current spate of terror films serve a useful function, reassuring people that despite their own problems, things could be worse... Dan O'Bannon, who did the special effects on DARK STAR, will do the effects for DUNE, produced, adapted, directed by Alex Jodorowsky... LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE is to join the comic strip stars on the silver screen as Hollywood brains have cast Tatum O'Neal as Annie and Telly Savalas as Daddy Warbucks... Richard Harris will play Richard the Lionhearted in Dick Lester's multi-million dollar Robin Hood film, ROBIN AND MARIAN... HOUDINI begins filming in March of '76 with James Bridges as director. This fascinating tale explores little known facts about the famed escape artist's life, particularly his work with Arthur Conan Doyle in investigating spiritualism and "the other side"... Dan Curtis (creator of DARK SHADOWS) is directing BURNT OFFERING starring Oliver Reed, Karen Black and Bette Davis... Long after FLESH GORDON completed its first run (it's currently being redistributed with the explicit parts cut with an R rating), King Features of Italy is taking legal action in Italy to protect its American comic strip title which is puzzling local legalities... CYBERNIA, a science fiction drama about a malfunctioning computer governing the U.S., will be filmed this fall by New World Pictures... Time-Life, on the basis of its success with MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS (which it distributes to PBS stations, is thinking of

taking on another British humor show, THE GOODIES. The show received national attention recently in a story about a man who laughed so hard while watching that he died. His wife was glad that he was so happy at the end... Speaking of MONTY PYTHON, the first album has been issued in the U.S. by Pye, and another follows in August, their first new album in three years. Now if somebody will distribute the LIVE IN DRURY LANE album... Pocket Books is going to distribute a new series of science fiction books under the Laser Books logo, similar to their Harlequin Romance line. Six titles will be out in September, three of which are RENEGADES OF TIME by Raymond F. Jones, HERDS by Stephen Goldin, and CRASH LANDING ON IDUNA by Arthur Tofte. Roger Elwood is the editor... SINBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER's screenplay is being done by Beverly Cross who did the screenplay for THE SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD which has just made a bundle in re-release... MGM is finally making the science fiction adventure LOGAN'S RUN based on the reknowned book by William F. Nolan. Michael York, Richard Jordan, Jenny Agutter and Peter Ustinov star.. THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN TV movie was based upon Martin Caiden's CYBORG novel. Caiden then wrote a second novel NUKE which became the second SIX MILLION TV show. Now a series of paperbacks based on the TV show are out by -- Michael John. WINE, WOMEN AND WAR is based upon a Glen Larsen teleplay for the third SIX MILLION episode. A fine way to treat Martin Caiden... Doug Wildey is Supervising Director and Associate Producer of the RETURN TO THE PLANET OF THE APES cartoon show for Depatie-Freland Productions. (Saturday mornings 11:00 A.M. Eastern, September 6 is the debut.) He wrote the premises for thirteen episodes and says "the writing and music are way above average for Saturday morning." We'll be watching.

R. Blabbit

This fall will see the debut of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT on U.S. radio via syndication. These will be new episodes, the first few being written by the originators, the Better Broadcasting Company. Later episodes will hopefully be done by "some of the better known and most talented comic book scriptors around." To be broadcast three times a week, each episode will be ten minutes in duration. A list of subscribing stations should be in the next issue.

(Below you'll find the fall TV schedule as it is at the moment. ABC has two half-hour sitcoms ready to go including EVERYTHING MONEY CAN'T BUY which was on last fall's schedule, starring Carl Reiner, and they may pull an hour from their schedule for them. Knowing ABC though, some shows may last three episodes anyway.)

1975-76 Season Schedule-2d Revise

Effective September 1975

(New Shows in CAPS)

	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	
MONDAY	(Local)	BARBARY COAST		NFL Football				ABC
	(Local)	Rhoda	PHYLLIS	All in the Family	Maude	Medical Center		CBS
	(Local)	INVISIBLE MAN		Movies				NBC
TUESDAY	(Local)	Happy Days	WELCOME BACK KOTTER	The Rookies		Marcus Welby		ABC
	(Local)	Good Times	JOE & SONS	SWITCH		BEACON HILL		CBS
	(Local)	Movin' On		Police Story		JOE FORRESTER		NBC
WEDNESDAY	(Local)	WHEN THINGS WERE ROTTEN	That's My Mama	Barretta		STARSKY & HUTCH		ABC
	(Local)	Tony Orlando & Dawn		Cannon		KATE McSHANE		CBS
	(Local)	Little House on the Prairie		DOCTORS' HOSPITAL		Petrocelli		NBC
THURSDAY	(Local)	Barney Miller	ON THE ROCKS	Sts. of San Francisco		Harry O		ABC
	(Local)	The Waltons		Movies				CBS
	(Local)	MONTEFUSCOS	FAY	ELLERY QUEEN		MEDICAL STORY		NBC
FRIDAY	(Local)	MOBILE TWO		MOVIES				ABC
	(Local)	BIG EDDIE	Mash	Hawaii Five-O		Barnaby Jones		CBS
	(Local)	Sanford & Son	Chico & the Man	Rockford Files		Police Woman		NBC
SATURDAY	(Local)	SAT NIGHT LIVE		Swat		MATT HELM		ABC
	(Local)	The Jeffersons	DOC	Mary Tyler Moore	Bob Newhart	Carol Burnett		CBS
	(Local)	Emergency		Movies				NBC
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	
SUNDAY	SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON		96 Million Man		Movies				ABC
	THREE FOR THE ROAD		Cher		Kojak		BRONK		CBS
	World of Disney		FAMILY HOLVAK		Sunday Mystery Movie				NBC

Comment

As long as comic books have been published, publishers eager to take advantage of the popularity of characters established in other media have been doing so through a process called licensing. The publisher goes to the copyright holder of the novel, movie, radio show, TV show, toy, or even celebrity likeness, and signs a contract to pay a certain percentage of the profits from the comic to be published. Naturally, this means a higher overhead for the publisher, but it also means a certain amount of free advertising for the comic every time a copy of the book is sold or a show is seen. In some cases, this makes a licensed character book more profitable than one featuring an original character.

Most of the earliest instances of licensed books in the thirties and forties, not including those based upon (or containing reprints of) comic strips, involved radio show heroes. The most successful of these included THE GREEN HORNET, CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT, THE LONE RANGER, HOP HARRIGAN, THE SHADOW and JACK ARMSTRONG, with others like THE KILROYS and OZZIE & HARRIET meeting various degrees of success. Next on the popular choice list were movies, with TARZAN, OUR GANG, CHARLIE CHAN, NYOKA and THE CISCO KID drafted for service. The spate of cowboy books was headed by a new idea, basing books on real people, and included ROY ROGERS, GENE AUTRY, HOPALONG CASSIDY-BILL BOYD, TOM MIX, BUSTER CRABBE, GABBY HAYES, et al. Even DC and Marvel got into the act, DC with DALE EVANS, ALAN LADD and JIMMY WAKELY, and Marvel with such luminaries as SUNSET CARSON, TEX MORGAN and BLAZE, THE WONDER COLLIE.

Of course, Dell Comics' entire line was licensed at one time or another and they held (and still hold, as Gold-Key) the crown for most licensed characters for all time. Their most popular books were licensed from the cartoons put out by Walt Disney, Warner Brothers, Walter Lantz and MGM, and, for the most part, still are. With the advent of television, Dell strengthened their position by putting out comics based upon virtually every show on network TV. During this period, Dell would often send their writers to the various studios before the season started to learn the characters and situations firsthand while watching the actors and talking to the writers. The artists would be armed with stills or character model sheets to draw the books. Sometimes, as is painfully obvious in some cases (STAR TREK is an example) the artist has never even seen the show. This would enable the company to release the book just after the show debuted on the air, catching a show as it built its audience and peaking at the same time.

When Dell became Gold-Key, they found themselves competing for rights for new shows with the new Dell Comics, and Gold-Key continued licensing TV shows until about 1968. Today they have only four books based upon non-cartoon TV shows: STAR TREK, DARK SHADOWS, THE TWILIGHT ZONE and ADAM-12. All have left network TV. Because of GK's inactivity in the area and Dell's demise, Charlton has seemingly stepped into their shoes. Beginning five years ago when they picked up both the King Features and Hanna-Barbera characters and through the PRIMUS and PARTRIDGE FAMILY books, they began to realize the value in licensing characters. Thus their recently announced SPACE: 1999, SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN and EMERGENCY books, whose success has yet to be realized. It is interesting that it has taken this long to take up the slack.

For a long time, it seemed that DC would never do another licensed character. Their MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY, GANG BUSTERS, JACKIE GLEASON and HOPALONG CASSIDY books (and their short-lived CHARLIE CHAN and PAT BOONE books) died in the late fifties, and DOBIE GILLIS, BOB HOPE and JERRY LEWIS books were gone by the late sixties. Their only new excursions into licensing were JAMES BOND (with a story that was done for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED), and two books based upon dolls -- G.I. JOE and CAPTAIN ACTION (the latter a very good book). Then, somebody decided that it might be a good idea to try it again and the TARZAN family of characters was tried, which seemed to open the door for "already established characters. THE SHADOW and THE AVENGER were also tried in an effort to take advantage of the market success of the paperbacks. A KUNG FU TV adaptation was put on the schedule.

Meanwhile, Marvel got into the act. They hadn't done any licensing at all since the early fifties (PINKY LEE) and suddenly they were doing CONAN, THONGOR, KULL, DOC SAVAGE, PLANET OF THE APES, SINBAD and WAR OF THE WORLDS. Things looked good for licensed characters for awhile. Ultimately, almost every licensed book at either company failed. Why?

The first consideration to be given the situation is that comics just don't sell well enough to make licensing a profitable venture. There's such a proliferation of titles on the stands that sales slump for the individual titles if not for the whole market. Aside from this, other factors may enter into it. The Burroughs characters, with the exception of TARZAN, were tried as adaptations of the novels in minute doses at bi-monthly intervals, and, without exception failed. Not that they weren't good adaptations; rather it was a matter of too little and too far between. In the cases of the other DC adaptations, it could very well be that the timing was off the mark. Although SHADOW paperbacks have recently reentered the field, they were not in great abundance when the comic started and the built-in audience a licensed book needs to succeed consisted of people who remembered the radio show -- people too old to make up a sizeable percentage of the audience. (The announced SHADOW film, to be done for TV, never did appear.) THE AVENGER started far too late, as the book series was on the downswing. Besides that, the book's resemblence to the paperback series was minimal.

FAFHRD AND THE GREY MOUSER was obscure to start with. KUNG FU never came about (unofficially because David Carradine's attorney wanted too much for the use of his likeness), but would have been at least a year and a half too late anyway. KUNG FU went off the air in June, just as the third issue would have been released. Even now, National is missing it -- SUPER FRIENDS, based upon their own Saturday morning cartoon, will leave the air in September -- the week before the book is released.

Marvel's success has come only with CONAN and (presumably) PLANET OF THE APES. DOC SAVAGE was begun too late to cash in on the Bantam paperbacks, and too early for the film, realeased this summer. The new black and white version may succeed. WAR OF THE WORLDS was never based on the film, and has gone far astray of anything connected with the book. A new SINBAD adaptation is due out next month (adapting the '59 film!? !) and seems to underline the fact that Marvel is trying to base the book on the character rather than the movie. In such a case I cannot understand why it should be necessary to do an adaptation at all.

PLANET OF THE APES may have been timed perfectly, however. Gold-Key timed a book based on the second film and apparently found too little succes to try another. But Marvel's version was launched BEFORE the live action TV show, catching that audience, and is still running as the cartoon show is about to debut. It cannot help but benefit by these occurances. And CONAN seems to have succeeded more by virtue of its quality and appeal than its character identification.

The newest trend seems to be public domain characters. Both DC and Marvel have done Hercules books and Sherlock Holmes will soon appear for Marvel, duplicating another character. DC has done the best-seller of all time, THE BIBLE, and will soon be doing KING ARTHUR and THE THREE MUSKETEERS. They've tried BEOWULF unsuccessfully. And both Marvel and DC announced WIZARD OF OZ projects, Marvel's based directly on the 1939 MGM Judy Garland film.

MARVEL MOVIE PREMIERE featured the Burroughs film THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT in adaptation, and its success will determine if any more shall follow. Jack Kirby's 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY should be a close approximation of the Clarke-Kubrick film story, and 2001 being a near-classic like the WIZARD OF OZ, has a good chance of succeeding. However, Marvel has also announced a book to be based upon THE PRISONER TV series -- a cult show that was aired on network in '68 and '69 and whose audience-draw is highly questionable. The comic book market was seven years younger when it was on and many probably don't remember it. (It may still be rerun in some places.)

Timing is probably the most crucial thing in every case. Books like STAR TREK, which last after the network run of a series has finished, mostly because of the merits of the show, not the comic, are few and far between. Granted that it is hard to guess what will be a successful series to base a comic on BEFORE the season starts, but I would say that it must be done that way. THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. began a month after the show started and lasted a phenomonal 22 issues. THE AVENGERS, which was released in 1968, lasted one, its cult of followers having apparently diminished. Although it was talked about, NIGHT GALLERY was never tried because they waited too long, although THE TWILIGHT ZONE was a success for GK. (Some comics don't come about because the licensees want too much money.) The worst timed book though, has to be THE GREEN HORNET. The series was made by the producers of BATMAN and launched in the highest sales period for comics in twenty years -- yet DC did not pick up the option for the comic and Gold-Key did not begin the book until after the show began. As you may know, the series was not successful, and subsequently, neither was the comic, ending after the third issue. However, there's no telling if that book would have succeeded had DC built a large following for it when they had the audience. (Interestingly, THE GREEN HORNET might have been a successful comic two years ago during the height of the Bruce Lee craze.) Although the character would still make a good comic in the right hands, there is virtually no tie-in value with any other medium.

A similar case may occur this fall, with the SHAZAM-ISIS show on CBS' Saturday morning line-up. Should the ISIS part of the show become successful, DC will have missed it again. Although they possess the rights to the character, they have no plans to do a book with her. Considering their previous timing, I wouldn't be surprised to see it next summer. (It is strange that the SHAZAM! show has not helped the comic book's sales enough to promote it from bi-monthly. Perhaps the two incarnations of the character are too dissimilar -- or maybe kids think the comic is too silly. Who knows?)

Although they still may do it, Marvel seems to have waited too long to launch a MONTY PYTHON book. Still, Marvel seems to be less cautious about licensing than DC is at the moment. (Rumor has it that National turned down the opportunity to takeover the Warner Brothers cartoon characters even though they have high sales.)

The only show on the fall network line-up that would probably make a good comic is THE INVISIBLE MAN. In the old days, such shows as BARBARY COAST, SWITCH, ELLERY QUEEN, MATT HELM and SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON would have been instantly picked up, and HAWAII FIVE-O, BARETTA, CANNON and STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO would have been around for years. Somebody would be doing M*A*S*H and WHEN THINGS WERE ROTTEN. Perhaps the ensuing months, with the SUPERMAN and SPIDER-MAN films and similar crossovers, will change things and the printed and filmed mediums will intermingle more often. But let us hope that someone figures out the chances of success before going out and buying the rights for a Howard Cosell comic book. - Andy Hildebrand

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National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (287, December). Sgt. Rock and Easy have to capture "The Fifth Bridge," a tale scripted by Bob Kanigher and drawn by the new team of Doug Wildey and Mike Grell. Kanigher's Gallery of War saga this time is "Last Call" by Ric Estrada. (9/2)

YOUNG LOVE (119, December-January). Allan Asherman takes over as editor to use up the inventory of stories left from the reigns of many other editors. (9/2)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (125, December). Great scott! Two-Face teaming with the Justice League? It's true in "The Men Who Sold Destruction" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. Cover is by Ernie Chua. (9/2)

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE (5, December-January). The last issue of this title features the following: "Gunslinger" by Bill Riley, Guy Lillian and Bill Draut, "What Am I Bid?" by Arnold Drake and Tony Henson, and "The Stars Like Pallbearers" by David Michelinie, Ernie Chua and Bill Draut. Intro by Steve Skeates and Nestor Redondo, cover is by Berni Wrightson. (9/2)

THE PHANTOM STRANGER (40, December-January). The Stranger and Deadman team-up to battle Nathan Seine and Cassandra Craft returns in "Kingdom Of The Blind" by Paul Levitz and Fred Carillo. Cover is by Jim Aparo. (9/4)

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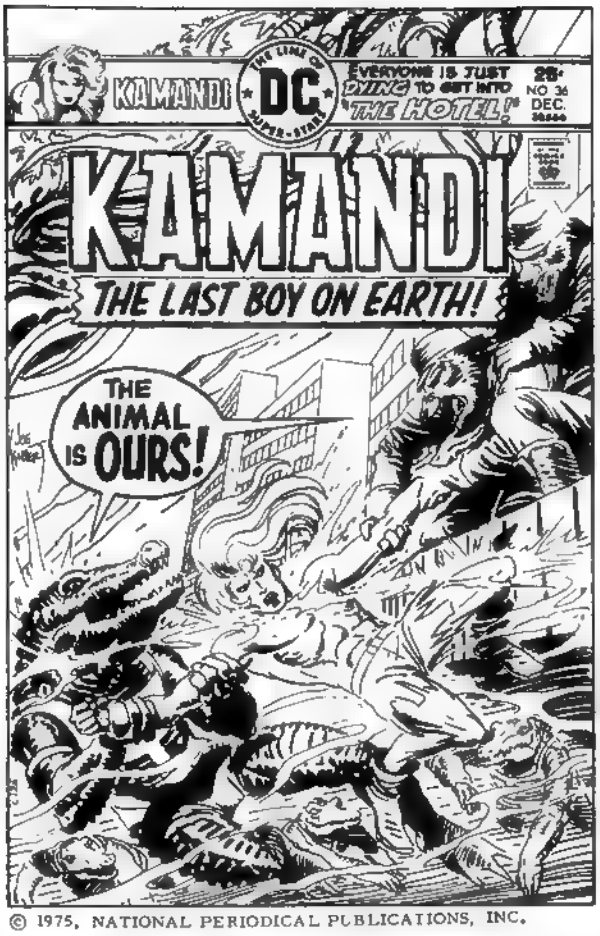

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MAN-BAT (1, December-January). When last we left the Langstroms, all was fine, but Francine is out biting necks again and it's Kirk's responsibility to stop her in "Beware The Eyes of Baron Tyme" by Gerry Conway, Steve Ditko and Al Milgrom. Cover is by Jim Aparo. (9/4)

KAMANDI (36, December). Kamandi and friends check in to "The Hotel" in a story by Jack Kirby and D. Bruce Berry. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (9/4)

LIMITED COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS (C-41, December-January) oversize. THE SUPER FRIENDS features a ten page feature on animated cartoon creation and six pages of continuity by Alex Toth with script by E. Nelson Bridwell. Reprints include two JLA adventures: "Operation: Jail The Justice League" by Gardner Fox, Mike Sekowsky and Sid Greene, and "The Case Of The Disabled Justice League," by Fox, Sekowsky and Bernie Sachs. Cover is by Alex Toth (except for Superman's head by Curt Swan and George Klein). (9/4)

LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION (C-40, December-January) oversize. Chester Gould's DICK TRACY strip is the feature in this issue. Included is the entire Flattop sequence from the forties, plus Crimestopper's Textbooks, a Rogues Gallery pinup and other special features. Cover by Chester Gould. (9/4)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (238, December-January). Bi-monthly again, this issue features "A Touch Of Evil" by Jack Oleck and Jess Jodloman, and "Headlines Of Doom" by David Michelinie and E. R. Cruz, not to mention a

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Cain's Game Room by Don Edwing and Dave Manak. Cover is by Luis Dominguez and Bill Draut. (9/9)

STALKER (4, December-January). Stalker enters Hell to battle Dgrth and regain his soul in "Invade The Inferno" by Paul Levitz, Steve Ditko and Wally Wood. Cover is by Ditko and Wood. (9/9)

SWAMP THING (20, December-January). Swamp Thing's vegetable clone is the foe in the concluding part of "Mirror Monster" by Gerry Conway and Nestor Redondo. Cover is by Redondo. (9/9)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (194, December). Mission: destroy a Nazi Communication Center. But the Unknown Soldier reckons without "The Survival Syndrome" in a tale by David Michelinie and Gerry Talaoc. The back-up is "The Siege Of Zanzibar" by Michelinie and Quico Redondo. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (9/9)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (123, December). Metamorpho and Plastic Man make their team-up appearance with Batman in "How To Make A Super-Hero" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. Cover is by Aparo. (9/11)

WONDER WOMAN (221, December-January). Hawkman narrates the latest trial of Wonder Woman as she battles ghosts from her past in "The Fiend With The Face Of Glass," a story by Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. Cover is by Ernie Chua. (9/11)

DC SPECIAL (19, December-January) 68 pages. The theme of this issue is War Against The Giants and features are Superman versus "The Immortal" by Jim Shooter and Wayne Boring, Green Lantern as "Captive Of The Evil Eye" by John Broome and Gil Kane, Wonder Woman as part of "The Human Charm Bracelet" by Bob Kanigher, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito, and a story from STRANGE ADVENTURES, "The Indestructable Giant" by Jack Miller, Gil Kane and Sy Barry. Cover is by Ernie Chua. (9/11)

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY (174, December-January) 68 pages. Supergirl must battle "The Eyes Of The Serpent" in the lead story by Elliot Maggin and Kurt Schaffenberger. Jimmy Olsen leads off the reprints in "The Million Dollar Question" by Otto Binder, Curt Swan and George Klein, Lois Lane follows with "Through A Murderer's Eyes" by Nelson Bridwell, Irv Novick and Mike Esposito, and Perry White is spotlighted in "Superman For Sale," with art by Wayne Boring. Cover is by Kurt Schaffenberger. (9/11)

BEOWULF (5, December-January). Beowulf somehow ends up on Atlantis before it sinks and it's due to god-like beings from outer space in "Chariots Of The Stars" by Mike Uslan and Ricardo Villamonte. Cover is by Dick Giordano. (9/16)

SUPERBOY (213, December). The Legion finds itself scared in "Jaws Of Fear" by Jim Shooter and Mike Grell. Plus, Timber Wolf encounters a former Legion foe in "Trapped To Live -- Free To Die" by Shooter, Grell and Bill Draut. Cover is by Mike Grell. (9/16)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (162, December). Jack Kirby leaves OFF with this issue's tale which is written and drawn by Jack and inked by Mike Royer. Next issue, Murray Boltinoff is in the position of attempting to straighten out the Ona continuity. (9/16)

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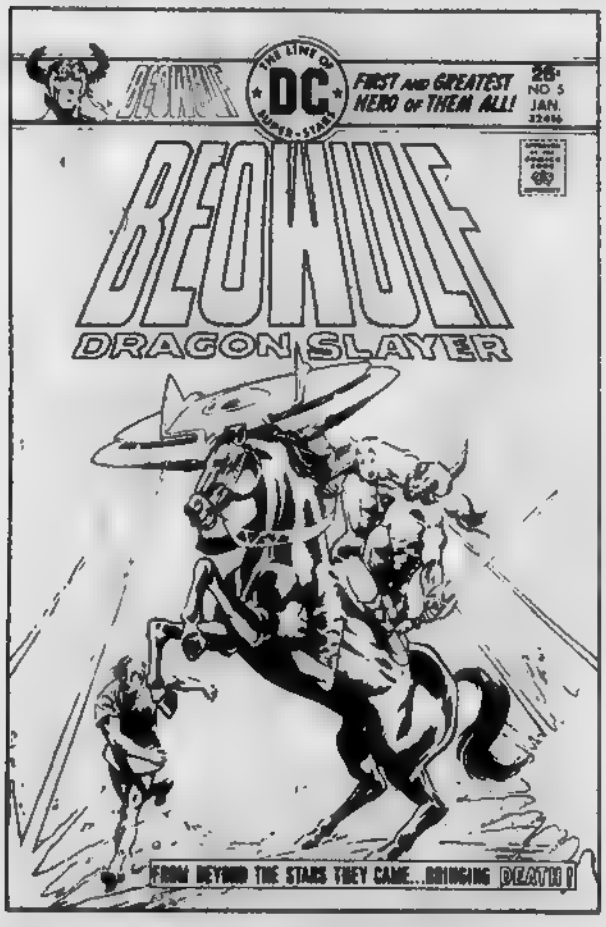
THE WITCHING HOUR (61, December-January). Stories featured herein are "Where Can You Get A Ghoul Who Has Everything," by Carl Wessler and Jess Jodloman, "Marked For Death" by Buddy Gernale, and "May I Spill Your Guts" (great title) by George Kashdan and E.R. Cruz. Cover is by Luis Dominguez. (9/16)

BATMAN (294, December). Batman faces a lunatic that leaves burning statues of his victims at the scene of his crimes in "The Menace Of The Firey Heads" by David Reed and Ernie Chua. Cover is by Chua. (9/18)

SUPERMAN (294, December). Brain Storm, a villain who appeared first in JLA #32, returns to plague Superman in "The Man Who Slept The World Away" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. The Private Life Of



Clark Kent involves "The Tattoo Switcheroo" by Marty Pasko, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Vince Colletta. Cover is by Bob Oksner. (9/18)

FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL (9, December). DOCTOR FATE, the Mystic Mage returns to star in the first full-length solo tale of his career in an untitled story by Marty Pasko and Walt Simonson in which he battles a servant of Anubis. Cover is by Simonson. (9/18)

KONG THE UNTAMED (4, December-January). Kong and Gurat enter the "Valley Of Blood" as Gerry Conway takes over the scripting and the Friends Of Redondo Group take over on the art. Cover is by Bill Draut. (9/23)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (138, December). Three stories this time: "Where Dreams Are Born" by Jack Oleck and Frank Redondo, "Blood Money" by Oleck and Jess Jodloman, and

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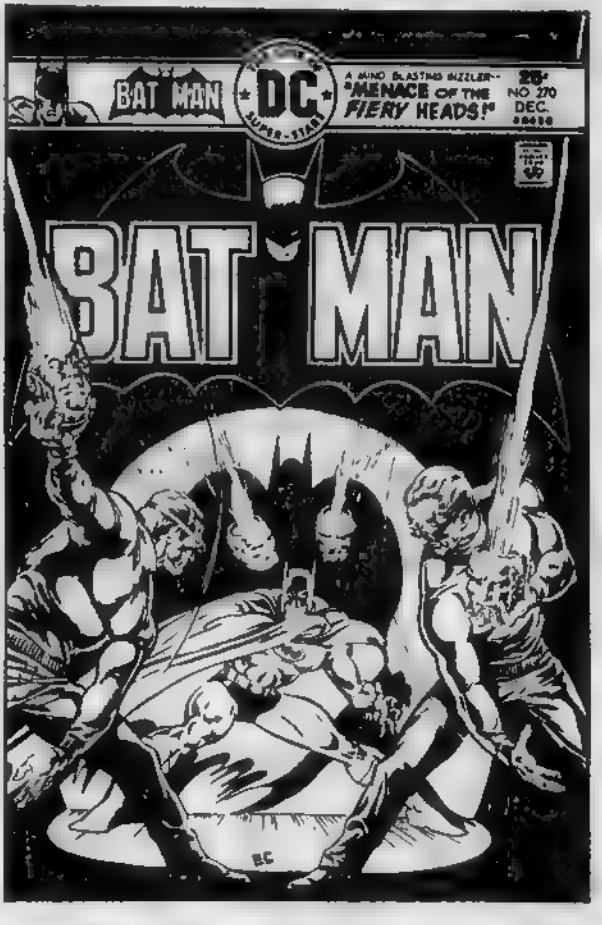
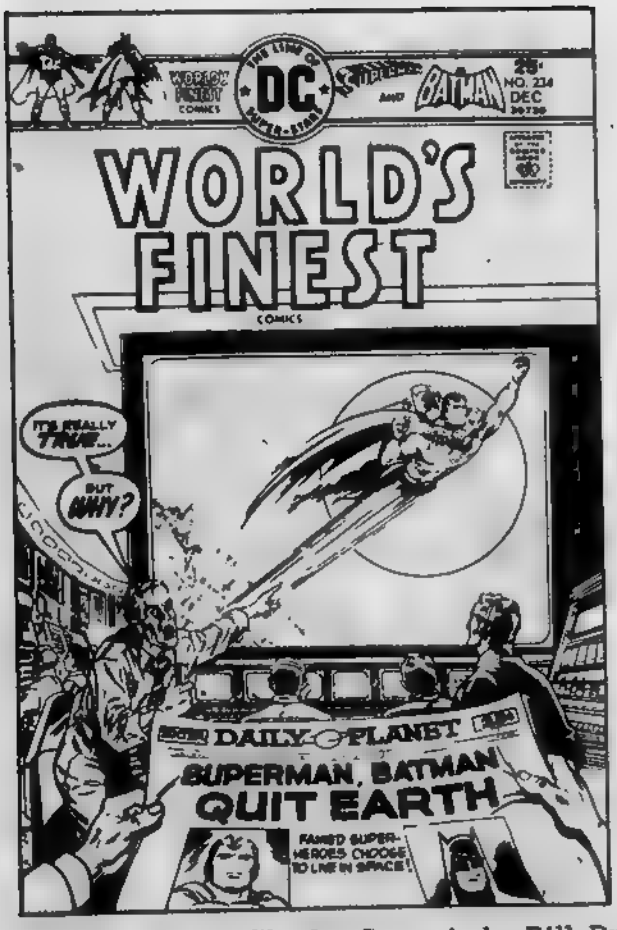
"Night Watchman" by George Kashdan and Leopoldo Duranona. Cover is by Bill Draut. (9/23)

THE SANDMAN (6, December-January). The insidious Dr. Spider returns in "Plot To Destroy Washington" by Mike Fleisher, Jack





Kirby and Wally Wood. Cover is by Bill Draut. (9/23)

G.I. COMBAT (185, December). The irrepressible Jeb Stuart declares that there should be "No Taps For A Tank" in a story by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. The backup is

THE FLASH
DC
WHAT A SURPRISE THE FLASH HAS COMING--
--WHEN HE CATCHES UP WITH ME--
--AND I'M SOMEBODY ELSE!
SURPRISE SURPRISES COME WITH "A SWITCH IN CRIME!"

"Three Dogtags To Glory" by Bob Kanigher and Ric Estrada. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (9/23)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (234, December). Superman and Batman are the team this issue as they try to figure out the reasons behind "The Family That Fled The Earth" by Bob Haney, Curt Swan and John Calnan. Cover is by Ernie Chua and Tex Blaisdell. (9/25)

THE FLASH (238, December). A new member of Flash's Gallery of Rogues is Mister Originality, and he stars in "A Switch In Crime" by Cary Bates, Bob Rozakis, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin. Green Lantern battles the Marauders Of The Galaxy in "The Day Of The Falling Sky" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Grell and Tex Blaisdell. (9/25)

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TARZAN (244, December). The Man Of The Apes becomes embroiled in "The Bloody Shop" by Joe Kubert and a Philippines artist. Cover is by Kubert. (9/25)

SUPER-TEAM FAMILY (2, December-January) 68 pages. Still a giant, the new story involves The Creeper and the Earth One version of Wildcat battling Creeper's old foe Proteus in "Showdown In San Lorenzo" by Denny O'Neil, Ric Estrada and Bill Draut. The reprints were undecided as we go to press. Cover is by Dick Giordano. (9/25)

RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER (5, December-January). Dragon enters "The Arena Of No Escape" in this story by Denny O'Neil, Ric Estrada and Wally Wood. Cover is by Dick Giordano. (9/30)

ACTION COMICS (454, December). Superman battles a new improved Toyman who has

sapped his energy in "Superman's Energy Crisis" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Bob Oksner. The Atom stars in the five pager, "The Camous That Swallowed Itself" by Marty Pasko and Jose Delbo. Cover is by Bob Oksner. (9/30)

DETECTIVE COMICS (454, December). Batman battles a three-fold menace in "The Set-Up Caper" by David Reed, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Ernie Chua. Plus, Hawkman trys to put his hands on "The Catch-Me-If-You-Can Crook" by Nelson Bridwell and Garcia-Lopez. Cover is by Dick Giordano. (9/30)

HERCULES UNBOUND (2, December-January). After the earth dies, Hercules must fight Ares for the first time in ages in "Unleash The Hounds Of Hell" by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Wally Wood. (9/30)

Marvel Coming Comics

DAREDEVIL (128, December). DD fights Death Stalker at the old World's Fair grounds and a sub-plot begins involving John and Robert Kennedy in "Death Stalks The Stairway To The Stars" by Marv Wolfman, Bob Brown and Klaus Janson. (9/2)

TOMB OF DRACULA (39, December). Dr. Sun and Juno achieve their objective -- by driving the silver spike through Dracula's heart, Juno kills Dracula! "The Death Of Dracula" is by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (9/2)

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THIS DAY ONE OF US MUST DIE!
ALONE AGAINST... THE OTHER!

KID COLT OUTLAW (201, December). Going to new material for a few issues, this issue starts with "Death In The Devil's Dungeon" by Gary Friedrich and Dick Ayers. (9/2)

THE INVADERS (4, December). The second half of the U-Man story is "Four Against The Flood-Tide" and is by Roy Thomas, Frank Robbins and Vince Colletta. (9/2)

SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP (3, December). Namor and Dr. Doom defeat Dr. Dorcas, Tiger Shark and Attuma in a story by Jim Shooter, George Evans and Jack Abel. Next issue, Steve Englehart takes over the book and sends it in a new direction. (9/2)

OUR LOVE STORY (37, December). (9/2)

THE OUTLAW KID (31, December). (9/2)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (13, December). (9/2)

GIANT-SIZE CAPTAIN AMERICA (1, December). Reprinted are Cap's first five solo stories from TALES OF SUSPENSE -- "Captain America," "The Army Of Assassins Strikes," "The Strength Of The Sumo," "Break Out In Cell Block Ten," and "The Origin Of Captain America," all written by Stan Lee and drawn by Jack Kirby, with inking by Chic Stone and Frank Giacoia. (9/2)

MARVEL SPECIAL EDITION (2, December) oversize. SAVAGE FISTS OF KUNG FU reprints the black and white stories from the first DEADLY HANDS summer special and the origin of the Sons of the Tiger in color for the first time, plus the first two Shang Chi stories from MASTER OF KUNG FU for their third time around. (9/2)

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PLANET OF THE APES (14, November) black and white. A brand new format -- 48 pages, no ads and 75¢ -- features "Up The Nose Tube To Monkey Trash" by Doug Moench and Mike Ploog, and ESCAPE TTPOTA , Part 3, "Trouble In Paradise Lost" by Moench and Rico Rival. Plus, "Shaping a Simian World" by Sam Maronie and a cover by Malcom McN. (9/2)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (151, December). The Shocker appears and we ask the question, " What does one do with a dead Spider-Clone? " Spidey faces death in the sewers in "Skirmish Beneath The Streets" by Len Wein, Ross Andru, John Romita, Frank Giacoia, Mike Esposito and Dave Hunt (a veritable one-man effort). (9/9)

MARVEL PREMIERE (27, December). SATANA makes her color book solo debut in "Death Song" in which she faces mystery and death on the California coast by Chris Claremont and The Tribe. Plus the first b & w story is reprinted in color. (9/9)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (192, December). Steve Rogers accidentally boards a charter plane controlled by Dr. Faustus in "Mad Flight" by Marv Wolfman, Frank Robbins and D. Bruce Berry. Next issue, Jack Kirby returns. (9/9)

THOR (242, December). Earth is destroyed by the Time Twisters in the first chapter of a four part extravaganza, "When The Servitor Commands" by Len Wein, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. (9/9)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (35, December). Shang Chi fights Mordillo and faces the peril of the Solar Chute as Pavane returns in "Death Hand And The Sun Of Mordillo" by Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy and Dan Adkins. (9/9)

IRON FIST (2, December). In K'un-Lun on the Eve of The Challenge Of The Many Of The One, Iron Fist fights for the lives of two friends and learns the shocking secret of K'un-Lun in "Valley Of The Damned" by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Frank Chiarmonte. (9/9)

SON OF SATAN (1, December). SOS returns to Fire Lake and goes to Hell to confront his father, plus he meets The Possessor in "Homecoming" by John Warner and Jim Mooney (splash page pencilled by Jim Starlin). (9/9)

MARVEL CHILLERS (2, December). Modred The Mystic continues his origin and battles The Other in "Of Magic And Madness" by Bill Mantlo and Sonny Trinidad. (9/9)

DOCTOR STRANGE (11, December). Dr. Strange is trapped on a world peopled by Dr. Stranges while he faces the Masque Of The Red Death in "Shadow Play" by Steve Englehart, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. Stay tuned for the end of the world. (9/9)

KA-ZAR (13, December). Ka-Zar battles the hideous hordes of the undead zuvembies (honest!) in "Skull Of The Lizard Men" by Doug Moench, Larry Hama and Fred Kida. (9/9)

GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS (5, December), 68 pages. Mandarin, The Enchantress, The Executioner, Power Man, Living Laser, Swordsman and Ultimo battle The Avengers in "The Monstrous Master Plan of The Mandarin" by Roy Thomas, Don Heck and George Roussos. (9/9)

DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (17, November) black and white. Shang Chi is featured in "Key

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to the Dragon's Heart" by Doug Moench and Rudy Nebres and the Sons of the Tiger appear in "Politics of Death" by Bill Mantlo, George Perez and Jack Abel. Cover by Neal Adams, inside front cover by Keith Giffen. (9/9)

THE AVENGERS (142, December). Thor and Moondragon team-up with Two-Gun Kid, Night Rider, Rawhide Kid, Kid Colt and Ringo Kid against Kang in "Go West, Young Gods" by Steve Englehart, George Perez and Vince Colletta. (9/16)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (57, December). Conan has his day in court in "Incident In Argos" by Roy Thomas and Mike Ploog. (9/16)

THE DEFENDERS (30, December). The Defenders get trapped in a '30s musical a la Busby Berkeley in "The Gold Diggers Of Fear" by Bill Mantlo, Sam Grainger and Jack Abel. (9/16)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (194, December). Hulk battles the old X-Men villain in "The Day Of The Locust" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. (9/16)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (13, December). Iron Man stars in "The Deadly Victory" vs. the Gray Gargoyle by Stan Lee, Gene Colan and Frank Giacoia, from TOS #96. Captain America battles Red Skull in "Back From The Dead" by Stan Lee, Gil Kane and Sam Rosen from TOS #89. (9/16)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (25, December). Sinbad returns in "The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad" which is adapted from the 1959 movie by John Warner and Sonny Trinidad. (9/16)

POWERMAN (28, December). Cage gets involved with a murder on Times Square and a

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chemical company that is sending dangerous radioactive materials through NYC in "The Man Who Killed Jiminey Cricket" by Don McGregor, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. Next issue, Buckler takes over the art. (9/16)

OMEGA THE UNKNOWN (1, December). A dying world somewhere in space is conquered by a race of men of living metal and Omega is the last of his race. But what is the mysterious connection between him and James Michael Starling? "Omega The Unknown" is by Steve Gerber, Mary Skrenes and Jim Mooney. (9/16)

THE GHOST RIDER (15, December). Ghost Rider continues his battle with The Orb and a special guest villain in "Vengeance On The Ventura Freeway" by Tony Isabella and Bob Brown. (9/16)

THE CHAMPIONS (2, December). The bad guys win and Hercules gets dragged down to Hell along with Venus in "Hell Or High Water" by Tony Isabella and Don Heck. (9/16)

THE INHUMANS (2, December). The Inhumans are pitted against the Kaptroids -- machines designed to swallow Inhumans whole in "Star Slaves" by Doug Moench, George Perez and Fred Kida. (9/16)

GIANT-SIZE CAPTAIN MARVEL (1, December) 68 pages. Reprinted are "And A Child Shall Lead You," "The Hunter And The Holocaust," and "Here Comes The Hulk," all by Roy Thomas, Gil Kane and Dan Adkins. (9/16)

FANTASTIC FOUR (165, December). The FF must stop The Crusader from killing again in "The Light Of Other Worlds" by Roy Thomas, George Perez and Joe Sinnott. (9/23)

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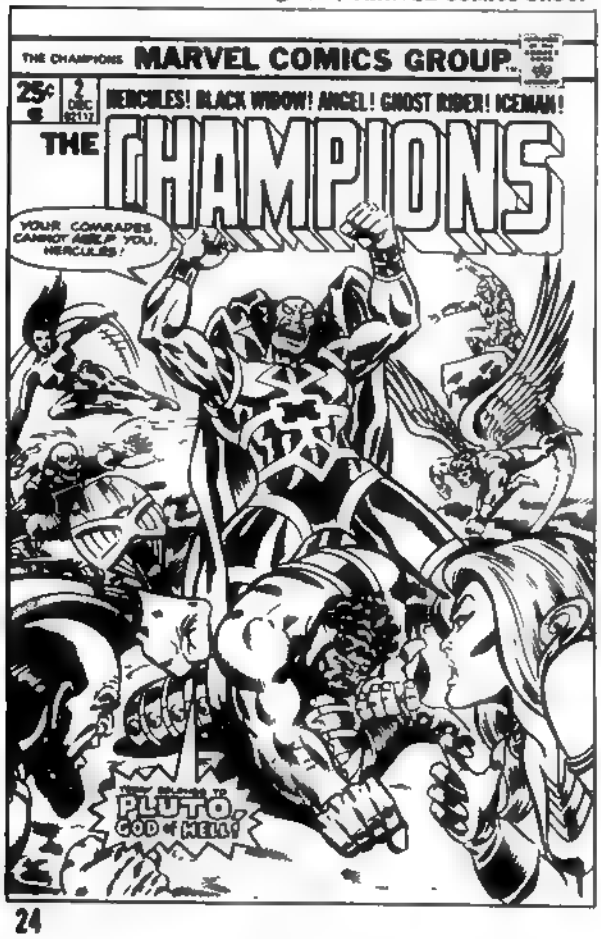

MARVEL TEAM-UP (40, December). Spidey, Torch and the Sons of the Tiger battle The Enforcers, The Big Man, Crime-Master and The Sandman in "Murder's Better The Second Time Around" by Bill Mantlo, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. (9/23)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (36, December). The death of Topaz and the execution of Buck Cowan are featured in "Marcosa In Death" by Doug Moench and Don Perlin. (9/23)

IRON MAN (81, December). The war of the supervillains ends as Iron Man fights Firebrand and goes slightly insane in "War Of The Mind Dragon" by Mike Friedrich, Chic Stone and Vince Colletta. (9/23)

WARLOCK (10, December). Thanos, Warlock, Pip and Gamora take on 25,000 religious

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fanatics not to mention The Magus, and Warlock realizes that the only way the Magus is to be defeated is that Adam Warlock must die. Story by Jim Starlin and Steve Leialoha. (9/23)

ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES (3, December). Part three of the adaptaion of the first POTA film is by Doug Moench, George Tuska and Mike Esposito. (9/23)

MARVEL ADVENTURES (1, December). DD faces the Masked Marauder and the Gladiator in "The Tri-Man Lives!" by Stan Lee, Gene Colan and Dick Ayers. (9/23)

ASTONISHING TALES (33, December). Deathlok meets the mysterious Hellinger and becomes enmeshed in a web of intrigue and violence. He also begins to suspect that he's been had. Story by Rich Buckler, Bill Mantlo and Klaus Janson. (9/23)

STRANGE TALES (183, December). Dr. Strange is pursued in "Mordo Must Not Catch Me" and meets Clea "In The Domain Of The Dread Dormammu" from ST #125 and 126 by Stan Lee, Steve Ditko and George Roussos. (9/23)

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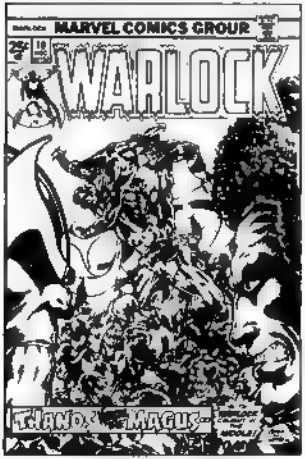
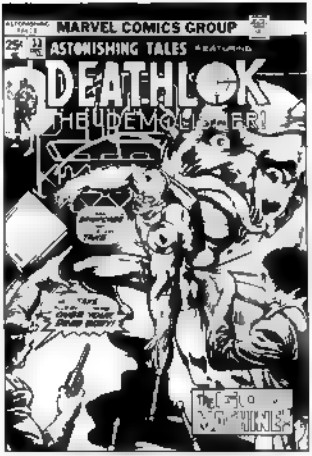
UNCANNY TALES (13, December). (9/23)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (20, December). (9/23)

THE X-MEN (96, December). The X Men fight a demon of the elder gods and a sub-plot begins about a shocking surprise villain in "Night Of The Demon" by Chris Claremont, Dave Cockrum and Sam Grainger. (9/23)

SKULL THE SLAYER (3, December). Skull and his crew get costumes and enter a tower -- each level of which is composed of a different time period where he fights a mechanical dinosaur in "Tower Of Time" by Marv Wolfman and Steve Gan. (9/23)





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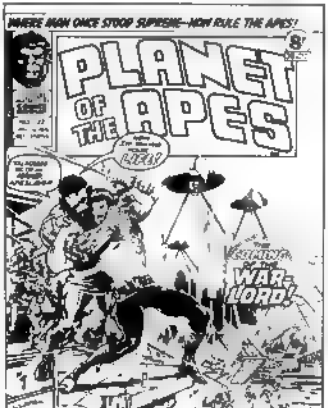
MARVEL FEATURE (2, December). Red Sonja is featured in a new story by Bruce Jones and Frank Thorne. (9/23)

MARVEL PRESENTS (2, December). Bloodstone's origin continues to unfold in "Hellfire, Helix, Hex" by John Warner and Sonny Trinidad. (9/23)



English Notes

The frequently mentioned English Marvel weeklies run into frequent problems because of their accelerated schedules. Since PLANET OF THE APES has used up all of the material done for the U.S. books, the Bullpen came up with the idea of adapting the WAR OF THE WORLDS strips from its beginning in AMAZING ADVENTURES to the ape saga. Al the humans and mutants that Killraven was fighting have grown all kinds of hair and become apes. Consequently, the stories have lost a little in their translation to English. No explanation is offered for why apes are now piloting Martian tripods. The advantage that Marvel weeklies have however is that they also receive brand new covers every other week since they use those up at an equal rate.

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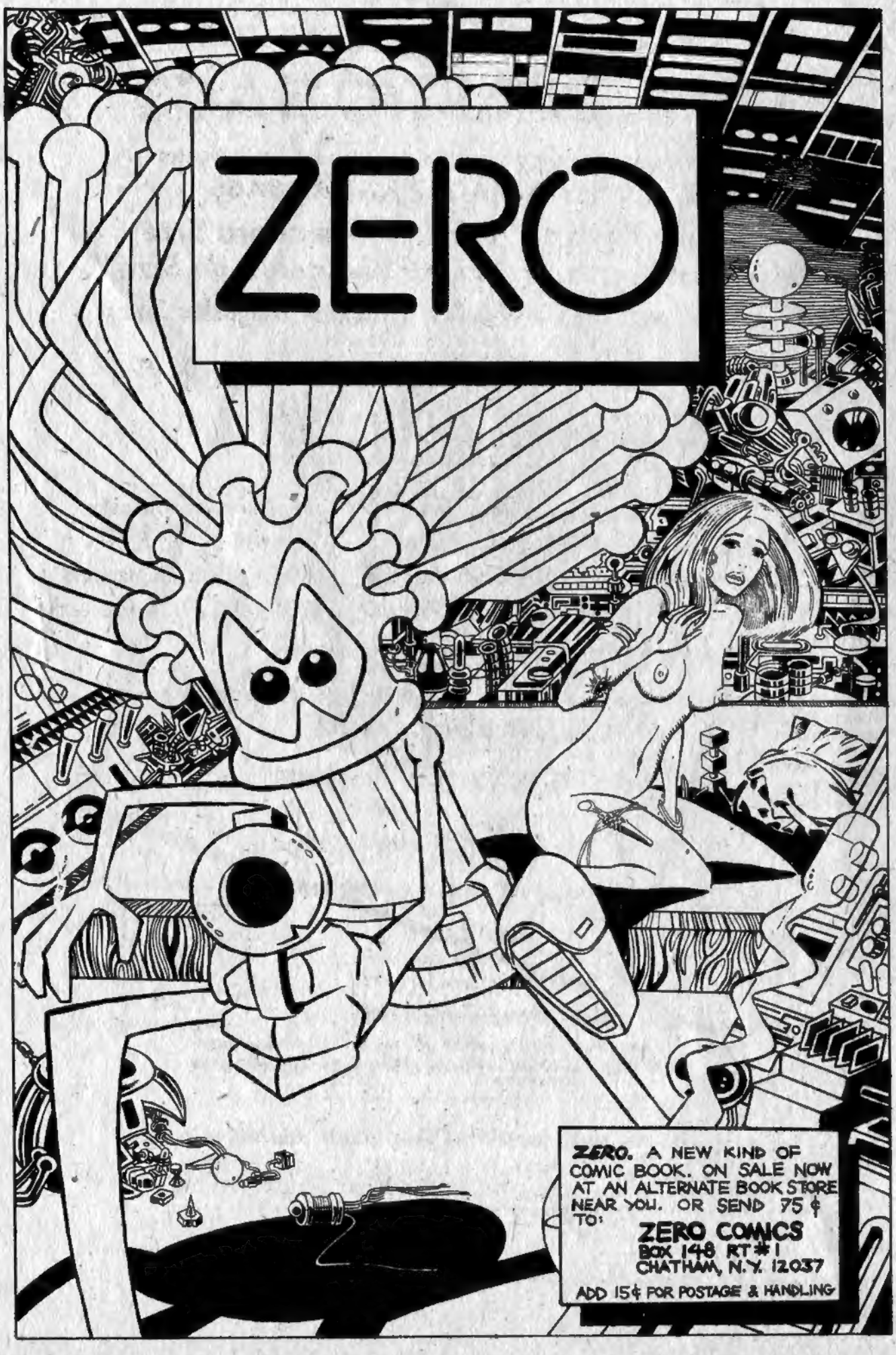
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